UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TO : Chief, Exchange and Gift Division DATE:

FROM : Chief, Manuscript Division

SUBJECT: Disposition of material inappropriate to the collections of the Manuscript Division

Transferred herewith are the items described below which are to be:

☐ Returned to the donor

☐ Transferred to appropriate custodial division of LC

☐ Disposed of by Exchange and Gift Division

Material:

Donor's name and address

Manuscript Division's Accession Number[s]

Comments:

SHAKER COLLECTION

cc: Accessioner
cc: Reference Department

David C. Mearns
Chief
Manuscript Division

77-25 (rev 3/62)

BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS THROUGH THE PAYROLL PLAN

SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 2

Autobiographical or biographical sketches of early Shakers at Enfield, Conn., dated 1810-43

Empty

12 Sheets

Clippings -

Biographical

Sketches

of early English Shakers

I believe you have two copies

printed of these in

this package,

M. C. A

Enfield Conn.
Dec 13th 1843.

Testimony of Olive Damon.

I was born in the Town of Foster, County of Providence, and State of Rhodeiland, Feb 10th 1798.

My Parents Names were Jeffrey Amherst and Mary Fry. In 1812 a great revival of religion commenced in which, I became a happy sharer. Like all other revivals that are in the world It begun in the spirit and ended in the flesh. And in 1814 I was married to Arthur Damon, and had a family. The people in this great revival called themselves Christians. And we had to pass through severe sufferings, and were brought into strait places. We had many happy seasons, and hundreds came into this work. Sometimes we soared to heaven in our feelings, and then again we would lose it, and would then feel under heavy tribulation, to know what to do, and what step to take, to gain complete victory over a lost fallen nature. In this manner we traveled on for several years, rowing against wind and tide. Still all of the time, the enemy would throw in his darts upon every hand, trying to overthrow the work which we believed to be the work of God. We prayed to God, to know his will concerning us; and we promised that if he would hear our prayers, we would be faithful to obey his commands; for we felt very poor and needy. In this situation we laboured through heavy sufferings and deep tribulation, not knowing which way to steer, or how to gain the victory over the man of sin, which was daily striving to overcome us, and make us give up the conflict. We remained so awhile, untill we were led to confess our sins (all that we had committed after we were converted) before the Brethren and Sisters. This we thought sufficient at this time. Many united with the gift, and many stood in bold opposition against it. Those that united with the work, were very happy, and received many precious gifts: they leaped and shouted and clapt their hands for joy; and some went forth in the dance; and many fell, like the dead in battle; and one lay untill her body was cold, and had the appearence of a corpse. Then suddenly springing from her lifeless appearence she was filled with transports of joy, and cried glory glory to God. Those that opposed it, fell back, and united with the world, and became very bitter enemies to the work. Our number was reduced from hundreds to a very few, like Gideons army. The cross was so great, and the work so mortifying to their pride they flinched at the cross, and give up their faith. The work of God increased from faith to

faith, untill we were led to make an honest confession of every known sin, from our childhood up to the present time. This led satan to roar louder than ever; which caused us to feel great sufferings of both body and mind. In this manner we continued along sometime, praying to the Lord, that he would open a way for our escape from what the wicked had prophecied against us; for they said that the work would come to naught. In Feb 1825, the believers came from Enfield, and opened the testimony of Christs second appearing to us. This was a very strange and new doctrine to us that Christ had made his second appearing through a female, Mother Ann Lee. We did not imediately close in with the work; we chose to weigh the matter candidly, that we might not in any way be deceived. We felt as though it was a very great work, to consecrate ourselves, time and talents, with all that we had, to the Lord; and this we felt that we must do, in order to be saved. The believers visited us often, and taught us how to come in, at the door of mercy and be saved. And a number set out to bear their crosses, according to the testimony which they had received. They rejoiced, and felt exceeding happy, and spake with new tongues, and praised God in the dance. I believed it to be the work of God, but did not fully unite untill in the year 1826. One of the brethren came down, that had set out the year before, and related the state of his mind and feelings concerning us. He said that he felt very anxious to have us come into the work; and truly it brought us into a great labour of mind. Arthur told him that he would set out; for he believed it to be the last call of God to him. But it seemed to him that it would be difficult to quit his place of residence, on account of a certain contract that he had made in regard to the use of property. The Brother stated, that if we would set out, the way would be opened, as fast as we would be willing to walk in it. He then advised us how to settle our business, and prepare to move, the ensuing Spring. This we did, beyond our expectation, and were so prospered in our undertakings, that by the 12th day of April we were ready to start on our journey for Enfield, Conn; and we arrived there, April the 15th, where we have lived ever since. Soon after I arrived here, I had a privilege to confess my sins, and set out to bear my cross; and this I did in the best manner that I was able: but as this was not the work of a day; for as the light shined, I have tried to be faithful to walk in it, not daring to cover the least sin.

yea, I do know I have laboured to walk so that my children should not stumble nor fall out by the way; and I have laboured to try to comfort them under their trials, and help them along, untill they were old enough to chuse for themselves. They have all made a wise choice, and are now good believers; which is a great comfort and satisfaction to me. My faith is firm and unshaken that this is the true and only way where by souls can find complete redemption from all sin. yea, I do know that this pure gospel hath yielded me peace and comfort from day to day, that I would not exchange for all created things. I never have seen a moment that I wanted to turn back to the weak and beggarly elements of the world; but have lived in utter abhorance of the ~~works~~ works of darkness. I am thankful for what I have gaind in the work of God; and I mean to persevere in the sin killing work, untill I find complete redemption from my loss.

I have full faith in the late manifestation of God to his people; for his spirit and divine power hath been operating upon his people in a wonderful manner. I have had many happy seasons, and received many beautiful gifts which hath comforted, strengthened and helpt me on my journey. yea, I have received a bountiful store of heavenly Presents from the holy Angels and ministering Spirits, that has truly revived my drooping spirit in time of sorrow and tribulation, for which I feel exceeding thankful to the giver of all good. And it is my determination to labour to walk worthy of his blessing and protection through time; that I may receive a Crown of never fading glory, when I have done with the perishable things of this earth.

A few words from an Angel of Comfort Wednesday Dec 13th 1843. Listen, Obelaved child of your blesed Mother Ann, and hear what she hath this day, sent me, to read unto you. O my lovely child, be cheerful, while pasing through tribulation, and ye shall be comforted, and be refreshed, with precious things that I will send unto you by my pretty Messenger. And at this time I have sent a gold Box full of my love, and on the cover is a gold Chain for you to wind around your neck 10 times. et Basket full of all kinds of Cordials and balsams. Drink freely of them, and they will comfort and strengthen your soul. yea, my lovely child, I have known of your trials and tribulations, and have felt much for you. Do not feel cast down and sorowful; for know ye

that I your kind Mother will help you in days and hours of deep and heavy tribulation, and will pour upon your head the Oil and Wine of joy and gladness, that will refresh your thirsty soul and body.

Farewell in Love.

I the Angel do speak a few words unto thee at this time.

Beloved one, I have viewed you this day, and have helpt you in your writing. Yea, and many other times have I viewed you serving God with a thankful heart and with a devoted spirit, walking humbly in the little strait and narrow path of self denial and the cross. So be ye comforted, and go on rejoicing; for ye will surely have help from the good Spirits.

Receive ye my Love and Blessing.

Farewell.

Oliver Damon.

Enfield Conn. Dec. 20th 1843.

Testimony of Sophia Newcomb.

I was born in Rensselaerville, State of Newyork, Jan 1st 1797. My Parents Names were Dodridge and Mary Necomb. From the age of 12 to 21 I was under great exercise of mind concerning my future happiness. I prayed earnestly to God, to be restored to his favour. I felt as though I was not formed to live on this earth, and please myself only. No solid comfort could I find in the vain fleeting things of time. In the Month of Sept 1818, I went, in company with my uncle, Elias Thompson, to see my Sister, who lived with the believers at Enfield Conn. I found her happy and contented. She invited me to stay, and live with her. And according to her request, I stayed, and my uncle returned to his family in Peru, Mass. About the last words from my uncle to me was, that he should not dare to believe that Christ had ~~made~~ appeared the second time through Mother Ann Lee, as they called her. But it was my opinion, that these people were far superior in goodness, to any other people on earth. I thought the fruits of the gospel were plainly manifested to me; and I wanted to be a partaker. I received faith in the testimony which believers held forth, which was plain and pointed against every propensity of a fallen nature, to which the human family are addicted. Likewise that a true and honest confession must be made of every known sin, before a soul could be admitted into the kingdom of Christ. Although very cosing to my natural disposition, I set myself about the work, and confessed my sins, one by one, as I comitted them. I then felt that my prayers and labour had not been in vain; for I fully believed I had found a people who followed Christ in the regeneration. Confessing sin, as taught by Jesus Christ and his holy anointed, is the fire of truth which comes from God, and penetrates to the very bottom of our lost. It is a refining fire, and will continue to burn, till the soul is refined from all dross. I believe that Mother Ann Lee was the Lords anointed, a chosen vessel of God, to convey the words of everlasting life to the fallen sons and daughters of Adam. I will bow my heart in thankfulness to God, that I have found this blessed gospel. Yea, I will forsake the vain pleas-

ures of time, and walk the strait and narrow path of self denial and the continual cross. In obedience to the requirements of the gospel, as taught by Mother Ann's succeeding Ministry, I have received many good gifts from Heaven. Therefore I will humble myself to the dust of the ground; for this is the way that redemption is found. I believe in the present divine manifestations from Heaven, and also those that have been in years past, among believers. According to what the good prophets declared, the word of life must be conveyed in pure vessels, that are prepared according to God's will. The Angels are sounding with their Trumpets both in Heaven and on earth, to awake lifeless souls, and bring them forth from their deep graves of sin. The gentle showers from heaven are now descending upon all Mother's ~~true~~ faithful children. I will be very thankful, and old nature keep down; that to my spirit good fruits may abound.

I am 46 years of age; having spent 25 years in this self denying way and have not at any time wanted to return again to the loathsome things of the world, which I abhor from the bottom of my heart.

Sophia Newcomb

A nerative of the Life of Enoch Pease, &c

When he was about 16 years of age he came to live in the Church of the united society at Enfield went to the blacksmith trade with Nathan Spooner a good workman where he learnt to work in the various branches there of, Soon after the said Nathan Spooner: decease in 1810 he removed to the gathering order so called where he learned the carpenter trade. Also the cooper trade and did some times Speak in the publick meetings and open the testimony to the spectators and occationly was sent abroad to open the testimony to those who wished for information. there continued until May 11th. 1827 then he removed to the society in Hancock Ms. where he continued until August 28th. 1828 he then came back to the North Family in the united society at Enfield where he continued until Nov. 8th 1832 he then left the Society unbeknown to any but himself as far as we know! to the surprise of all: he went to Springfield where he was visited by some of the overseers of the Society but as he did not with to continue with the society any longer it was agreed that if he would go and get a small seat where he could find imploy and procure a living the trustees would help him toward paying for it to the amount of $100 and gave him at the time $45 and cloth for a suit of clothes. considering that as he was somewhat advanced in years it would be right to give him something to begin with. he went to the west, and wrote a letter dated 23d Dec. 1832 at Newsted Near Buffalow

that he had agreed for a farm & built a shop as his letter will show requesting the trustees to send him $500 which would pay for his farm &c for which he would be thankful and it should be an ever-lasting discharge &c his request was Complyed with also a set of carpenter tools & clothing to the estimated value of $184 30 but he did not continue long on his New seat for in March folowing 1833 he returned haveing sold his seat in the state of Newyork continued a while in Springfield and the adjacent parts Maried him a wife and in may following set out and went to the State of Ohio and it was considered by all parties that he was wholy disconnected with this society perhaps for ever But very unexpectedly on the 16th July 1834 he came with his wife pretending that he would come and live in the society if we could agree but as we did not think it for the best he went and hired a tenament in the adjoining town and the trustees gave him some articles to keep hous with when he asked as they do others who ask the trustees did one year let a tenament to him and have hired him to work traded with him loaned him money in the same manner as they do other friendly people and by the way he made no pretence that he had any right to the property of the society without paying for it But on the Lords day 15th Oct 1837 he was detected with some mutton and it was found that he had killed a Learge weather & dressed it in the woods he was requested and came and owned that he got the sheep but expected to pay for it and the pay was offered but not received and it is yet unsettled as we were hopeing he would refrain from so doing — But when it was proved that he had taken a bushel of Rye in March last

out of the Gristmill; he was prosicuted ~~the~~ as others would have been in a like circumstance and fined for the crime. But he pretends that he had a right to the property Consecrated for the benefit of the society, which can easeily be proved that he has no more right to then other men.

June 8th 1841

A. Narrative of the Life of Enoch Pease

Written in the year 1861.

A narrative of Enoch Pease, his life manner &c
Since 1810. before that he had lived in the church and
learned the blacksmith trade, that year he went to live in
the gathering order with Elder James Slater, and occasionly
did Exerit in Publick meetings, and was some times sent
a broad to enlighten the minds of people where they wished
to understand the principles of the united society. there he
continued until May 11th. 1827. then he was removed to the
Society in Hancock. N.S. where he continued until
August 28th. 1828. he was dismised from the society
there and came to the North family in Enfield and solicited
a privilege to live in the family, and was taken in
as a member thereof where he continued. until Nov. 8th
1832. haveing formed a connection with a young female
which had already departed — he then left the family.
and Society without being requested. unexpected and unbe-
known to any but himself — he was found in Springfield
but as he did not wish to continue with the society any longer
he was then told that if he would go to some distant
part and find a small seat where he could get im-
ploy and procure a living the trustees would help pay
for it. or as a gift to him to the amount of $ 100 — it
and gave him at the time $ 44-00 &. cloth for a suit
of clothes. he set out for the west. — he wrote a
letter; dated 23d. Dec. 1832. at Newsted. near Buffalow
that he had agreed for a farm with a hous on it and built
a Blacksmith Shop. and was about ready to go to work &c.
and solicited the trustees to give him $ 500. and
gave directions how to send it and also how to send the
Clothes &. tools which the trustees would bestow upon him
for which he said he would be very thankful. and it
should be an everlasting discharge. &c — his request

was complyed with in hopes that as he had got him a good seat and so well established he might settle down and do well. which did not prove to be the case, for the 29th. of March 1833 to the Suprize of all he came back and said he had sold his seat in the State of New york, however he continued about in this vicinity a short time, Maried a wife and with in two months or less, took his wife and goods that had been given him to the amount of $184.30 and went down the river. and it was after word found that they went to the sate of ohio and it was considered by all parties that he was wholy and absolutely disconnected with the society perhaps forever. —— But to add to the surprise on the 16th. of July 1834, he came with his wife bag and bagage, pretending that he would come and live in the Society if he might be received, but did not have any demonic and it was not considered that he could be benefited by coming into our houses to live, he tarried 2 or 3 days in which time he found a tenament and had some things given him to keep hous with and lived in different places as he could and did one season hire a hous that belonged to the united Society, &. was hired to work as any other man. and after a while bought him a hous and farm. wholy disconnected from the Society &. when he asked had some presants given him as others do — but he did not always regard good morrals. for he would some times come and take property in a clandestine manner. in one circumstance he was detected by a neighbour with a mutton which which he had killed &. dressed on the 15th. Oct. 1837 Lords day. it was found to be a Seorge fat weather that belonged to the Society. he was sent for and came and owned the fact and he or his wife offered pay for it, the pay was not taken and it remains yet unsettled. thus. by the unbounded

forbearance and lenity which has been extended hopeing, that he would reform: seems to be at an end as all hopes of a reformation has failed, many things which he had taken was not followed.— therefore forbearance ceased to be a virtue! So that when it was proved that he had taken a bushel of rye in March 1841 that belonged to the Society and was under the care of D. Spencer the Miller he was permited to enter a complaint to the authority & he was convicted & fined on the 3d of April 1841. this has offended him to the highest pitch and he threatens to defend himself as long as his property lasts even to his last shirt

Spencer

Life of Enoch Pease
Since 1810 to 1827.
Written by Amaziah C

Enfield Ct. 22D. January 1833

Enoch yours of the 23th. of Dec. last came to hand 4th. instant & as you may be expecting to hear from us by the time this reaches you, we have been considering your request & situation without bringing any thing to a close until last monday, when we had a meeting of the Elders & Trustees from the church South & North Families. these all agreed that the Trustees should make you a donation of $100 exclusive of the $45 given you in Springfield; and as you requested a loan if we could not give enough to clear your farm it was agreed that Decon. Nathan. Earl & Jonathan might loan you $100. for which you are to make out a good note payable at some bank say Springfield Jenevia or. Buffalon at such a Period as you think will be consistant any time within 2, 3 or 4 years you may let it go one year without interest payable to N. J. or. L. J. or. order; this may have sufficient time to reach us before we shall ship yours Chests &c. which we expect to forward as you directed.
Peraduventure you will think we might have given the whole of the above Sum, but you know something of the expences our trustees are at with the mill which God only knows when it will end, besides we expect a number on from R. I. & the East next Spring which will cause some expence & the Thompson farm is not paid for yet. besides the daily expences [which] is no small Sum.
Now what is here given you with Prudent management & a common ~~blessing~~ Prosperity will make your situation in a temporal view Comfortable through life and we feel noliberty to make any Provition for the flesh to fulfil it &c.
Consiquently if you should be disposed to do so you must do it at your own expence. Nevertheless be ye asured that your departure from

your

~~fama~~ your near & dear friends & former compan-
ions has caused many feelings which we shall not
attempt to describe; you very well know that
our Fathers & our Mothers made their escape
from that manner of life which you seem to
incline to pursue; This is a little digression from
our subject, but it is not because we feel unfriendly
or wish you any ill Soul or body.
The £ 500 is Put into ~~the~~ the Bank but they chid not
incline to give a check but gave a receipt which
is here enclosed they say the bank of Bossalow will
discount it for ½ ct on the Dollar.
It is a usual time of health here with few exceptions
Ruth Mclaworry Departed this life the 3th inst. and
Mary Wood the 5th. Agnes Wardwell & Mercy
Burke are almost helpless not likely they will
continue long.
We have not had any Snow of any consigrance
this winter & but few days of cald weather.
Please to accept of our respects & best wishes
Signed in behalf of the trustees & those concern
E. A.

P.S. Be cautious to have a good title before you
pay your money as some have lost their Prop-
erty by not haveing good titles or haveing widows
thirds entailed on it & c.
E. A.

Enfield Ct. 14th March 1823

Dear Enoch this will inform you that we have been expecting to hear from you ere this as we received a letter from you about the 1st. of January dated the 22d. Dec. & forwarded you one about the last of the same month with a receipt from the Springfield Bank as we had deposited $ 500. there to your credit we are very anxious to hear whither you rec'd. the receipt & if the Bank discounted the cash &c. &c. we requested you in that letter to send us yours now if either has failed we wish to know it as a letter can pass in 8 or 9 days it has been more then 4 times that since we wrote & hear nothing pleas to write immediately

this from your friend Elisha Allen

P.S. we expect you will answer the request made in our former letter before we ship your clothes tools &c.

E. A.

Enoch went from here Nov. 5th 1823

The inventory of Enochs Clothing Bedding Tools & c. &c. amounted to $ 184-30 cts

Copy of Letters
to Enoch Sease
From Elisha Allen
1833.

Testimony of Mary S Russell. Enfield Ct, Dec 13th 1843.

I was born in the Town of Springfield, County of Hamden, and State of Massachusetts, Feb 24th 1811.

My Parents Names were Luther and Lois Russell.

My Mother was some acquainted with the believers, and thought them an honest good people, and also considered them to be very good to bring up children in the way they should go. At the age of 8 years she brought me to live with the people of God at the North Family in Enfield. Yea, here I have lived ever since, and have been taught the true simplicity of the gospel, from day to day and from year to year, by my faithful Brethren and Sisters. Not a moment have I seen, that I wanted to leave them, and turn to the beggarly elements of the world for the sake of enjoying sin for a season. But have sincerely prayed to God my Heavenly Father, times and times, that he would help me, and give me a humble thankful obedient spirit whereby I could reward them for their unbounded love and kindness in teaching me the pure way of God; and also for their kind care in bringing me up, and learning me how to work, that I may be useful, and be a help to them in their declining years. Many have I seen fall out by the way, those that were young with me, and were brought up with me; but it only increased my zeal more and more, to be faithful, and stand fast, and be thankful for my blessed privilege. For I knew that they could not deprive the faithful of any good; for they were corrupt at heart. My privilege hath been exceeding great, and still is; for which I truly feel thankful from day to day. Yea, my thankfulness I cannot express at this time, that I have been kept and protected, thus far, from the prowling wolves of prey and from the tempting snares of sin and death. O how I do prise the blessed gospel which Christ the Saviour and blessed Mother Ann taught when they were upon earth! Christ taught his people to come out from the world, in thought word and deed, and live a holy pure life devoted to God, or else they could not be his disciples. So did Mother Ann teach her dear children, that they must come out from the world, and confess and repent of every known sin, and live a sinless life, or else they could not abide in the Zion of God. She would tell them, that if they tried to go along with sin covered up, they would fall off like withered branches. This is my faith, that no soul can prosper, and keep in the ark of safety, with sin in their heart, that is not thon

estly confessed and repented. It ever has been my faith, that I must keep my conscience pure and clean, holy and undefiled, from day today, to be owned and accepted of God my Heavenly Father and Holy holy Mother and Christ the Saviour and blessed Mother Ann. It ever has been my prayer and daily labour, to try to walk worthy of my holy calling, that I may always be found in the increasing work of the gospel; for my interest and my all is in the pure way of God; and no ~~other~~ step do I escpect to take, one side of the footsteps of the holy anointed parents and leaders in the New Creation who have passed through heavy sufferings to maintain the work of salvation in its order and purity, agreeable to the requirements of God. If I am called to suffer for the sake of this blessed gospel, I mean to be reconciled and thankful, that I am called worthy to taste of their cup of sufferings, and be baptised with their baptism, and find peace with God, while on earth. The enjoyment and comfort which I take with my brethren and sisters in the Lord, I would not exchange for all the fleeting and transitory pleasures of this world: the treasure of the gospel is worth more to me than mountains of gold. And before I would renounce my faith, I would give my body up as a living martyr. The faith which I have in the late manifestation of God to his people is very great indeed: for it has yielded me strength, help and comfort, from time to time; and it has caused the tears to flow from my eyes, in thankfulness to God for his unbounded goodness, in sending ministering Spirits and Holy Angels for the increase and benefit of the younger order in his Zion. That they might awake and arise out of the dead state that they were in, and come into the true freedom of the gospel with all their heart and soul. I feel that my thankfulness ought to be exceeding great, and my spirit ought to be down in the valley love, for the very great privilege which I have had with ministering Spirits, since the great manifestation of God to his chosen, for 5 or 6 years past. Many and many views have I had of the spiritual world and the holy justified Spirits who are in it, and have received the refreshing dews of heaven, and heavenly peace and comfort from them, which has revived my drooping spirit in time of heavy tribulation.

And now I will write a few words, which a holy Angel has spoken to me whilst I have been writing.

Dear child of your blesed Mother, how oft have I viewed you, ~~I~~ strewing to obey your precious faith, and walk wathy of your holy calling! yea, how oft have I viewed you whilst in your holy Sanctuary, offering up holy offerings to your God in holy praise divine! So press ye on; faint not; for the prize is for you, if you walk humbly with God. Hold out to the end; let no one take your Crown; and ye shall always be helpt and protected, let what will come; and when ye close with the things of time, I will spread my wings wide, and convey you to the happy Mansions above; where you will stand on mount Zion, with the harp of God in your hand, singing the Songs of redeeming love, with your blesed Mothers little happy band.

Receive my love and blesing.

Farewell.

I say again, great hath been the condepecension of God to his people; yea, far greater than ever has been before since the world began. He hath opened the windows of heaven, and called upon his mighty Angels and holy Spirits, and loaded them down with every thing that heaven could afford, and have sent them to his little chosen few on earth, to administer them to their souls, to comfort and strengthen them in time of tribulation and sore perpecution. yea, bountifully hath he exeteneded his precious gifts, and heavenly presents through his holy Angels and ministering Spirits, times and times without number. I can say that I truly feel thankful every day, that God hath opened a way, where by his temple, can be purged and purified, from every thing that is wrong, and that no wicked hypocrite, can abide within his holy wall. I know in truth that this work of refining will go on untill Zions work is completed both within and without God's holy habitation.

I am determined to persevere on and obey the holy precious Orders of God which are set for my protection, and ever bear my daily cross unto the end, that I may come off conquerer and reign triumphant with purified Spirits in Heaven.

I have lived with the people of God about 25 years. I am now 32 years Old.

Mary S Russell.

Enfield, Conn, Dec. 21st 1843

Testimony of Persis Stebbins.

I Was born in Monson, County of Hampshire, (now Hampden) state of Massachusetts, May 7th, 1795. The names of my parents were Shaddeus and Rebeckah Stebbins. In my childhood and youth my parents taught me good morals virtues: they taught me there was a just God, who would reward every one according to their works. Although they had not joined any denomination professing the religion of christ, yet they taught me that the doctrines of Christ as laid down in the scriptures should be my guide. I put great confidence them; which saved me from many evils. My parents were poor, and under necessity of finding some other home for one; and from the age of eleven till I was 18 years old I worked out the most of my time to gain my support in life. seven years within this time, I had an opportunity of hearing different denominations converse upon religious subjects; each one laboureing to support their own sentiments on the subject, and condemning others; all this time acknowledging themselves sinners, &c. By reading the scriptures I thought this could not be the religion of Christ. I felt myself in a strait place: for I was convicted that I was a sinner, and was afraid I should go to hell; and I could not learn from those professers, any thing that would do my soul any good. this caused me to cry out, Where or to whom shall I go? I tryed to pray to God, to show me how I might be saved; and I promised obedience to his will, could I but know it. I thought if I had lived in Christs day, I should have been one of his disciples. Reading the scriptures, and praying to God as well as I knew how, was all the relecasement I could feel. some times I felt that resignation to Gods will, that I felt my spirit soothed, and thought my prayers were heard: again I would grow careless, and rest more at ease, thinking I lived as good a life as others; and in this way became light and vain. I was like a ship tossed in a storm, without a pilot; for I had no one to guide me. Not knowing there was any true Church on earth, yet relying on the words of Christ, seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; and hearing some observe, they thought the day when ~~when~~ Christ would make

his second appearance on the earth had nearly began to dawn; I felt a faint hope it would be in my day. Atlength in the fall of the year 1812, my father went to see the believers (called shakers) at Enfield, connecticut. The people where I livid, soon heared of it. They told me he had been to see a deluded set of people; that their leader was a witch; a woman named Ann Lee, whom they called their spiritual mother, and they were very free to speak of many scandulous reports which they had heared concerning them. My father soon made them another visit; tookmy mother and one of my brothers with him, who was in his eleventh year. They both received faith, confessed their sins, made a short visit; and then returned home, leaving my brother with them. This soon reached my ears. They seemed to lament his abusing his child in such a manner; and advised me to keep clear of them. My engagements were soon at an end there; and I went home to my fathers. He informed me of his visits; that he had received faith in their testimony, which was against all sin of every name and nature; and kindly invited me to go with him, and see them. Accordingly on the 24th of December one of my sisters and myself went with him, to pay them a visit; hping to find something for my needy soul, yet fearful. We were received in a very friendly manner; and such lovely countenances I thought I never saw before. My father made a short visit; then returned home, and left me and my sister. We attended their evening meetings; and I never shall forget the solemn scene. I was convicted that they were the people I had long wished to see. They talked with me concerning their principals of religion. and compared it with the scriptures. I acknowledged the truth of it. They told me, if it was my faith, I might confess my sins, take up my cross, and unite with them, if I desired so to do. The struggle then began. I said within myself. Where shall I look? I can look for no other: here is the Christ; if I strive to climb up any other way, I shall be but a thief and a robber. I then confessed my sins in the fear of God, in the presence of his chosen witnesses. In doing this, I felt the load under which I had groaned taken away. And in walking in obedience to the lead in zion, I find that peace and comfort which the world cannot give nor take away: yea Here is

that endless peace, where living wetters flow, which cannot be erwsed by mortals here below. Here flows a living streame of everlasting joy; food that is pure and clean; which sinners can't destroy. Many trials and temtations I have had to undergo; yet throe the goodness and mercy of God I have been able to resist the evil, and choose the good; for which I am thankful to God, who hath given me the victory: yea, it is the bread and wetter of life to my thirsty soul. Although there has not been such an outpouring of the spirit, and workings of miracles, as there was in the first commencement of the work; yet there has been an evident ministration of the power and gifts of God, which have been a deviding line between the precious and the vile: a powerful testimony against all sin; against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life; against all wars and fighting, in short, every evil that besets the mind. Now these are the followers of the despised woman, mentioned in the first, who is in truth our spiritual mother; who paved the way for all souls who are willing to forsake all, take up their cross, and follow christ in the work of regeneration, as he taught his disciples in his first appearing. And I have no doubt that this is the female whom God hath chosen; through whom christ hath made his second appearance, to make a final end of sin, and complete the redemption of fallen man and woman. This faith I have received; which is an anchor to my soul, both sure and stedfast.

Come, all ye who hunger for salvation, come, and partake of the bread and wetters of life. Here manna pure is given to every faithful soul, to keep our spirits living, more precious far than gold. Within six years there has been inspired ones chosen of God to make known his mind and will to his zion on earth; And that power has been manifested, that hath searched the hearts and souls of the people, and which has been like refiners fire and like fullers soap, to cleanse and purge out that which hath crept in by the enemy of all souls. To prepare the people for a further increase in the work of God, there has been wonderful gifts of visions; talking in other tongues; gifts of prophecy, gifts of healing, and many remarkable opperations on the mortal body. Yea, we have, in mercy to our souls, received the chastisement of our God; which has caused us to bow low in humble submision to his will. O I do love this lowly way; and from it may I never stray. I have received many

precious gifts through those inspired ones; which has fed my soul from day to day. My tongue cannot express nor pen describe the gratitude and thanks I feel to God, for his abundant blessings. I believe, according to revelation in this our day, that God is about to make known his mind and will to the nations of the earth: that the trump of God is already sounding, and will sound, untill all nations, kindreds tongues and people, will hear the sound. And those who will come forth into the resurrection of life, on them he will have mercy; and those who reject his call, the vials of his wrath will surely fall. For I believe that God is about to shake the earth in mercy and in judgment. Awake, all you that sleep, and come forth ~~forth~~ from your graves of sin and death, and be ye saved, O ye children of men. Choose the way of life, and live. O what a happy choice! Poor sinners, do repent, and hear Gods gracious voice, when ere to you tis sent. It cannot here be told, nor will it ere be penn'd, the good thats for the obedient soul, when time shall have an end

Persis Stebbins

Persis Stebbins

Testimony of Thomas Stebbins. Dec. 18th 1843.

I was born in Monson, County of Hampshire, (now Hampden) state of Massachusetts, sept 25th 1800. My parents names were Thaddeus and Rebecca Stebbins. I was taught by them that there was one living and true God, that would reward every one according as their works should be: that there was a place of happiness beyond the grave, for all that were Good; likewise a place of misery for the wicked. These things brought serious and solem feelings upon my mind at many times, lest I should die, and go to that place of torment; and by this means I was kept from many evils to which I should otherwise have yielded. In the fall of the year 1812, my parents went to Enfield, connecticut to visit the believers; and they received faith in their testimony, confessed their sins, and set out to take up their cross, and follow Christ in the regeneration, according as they had been taught by these people. I was then living three or four miles from home, at Stephen Stacy's. I went home for a visit, and was informed, by my parents, of the visit they had made the believers. And they manifested their faith in their doctrines; wich were, that Christ had made his second appearance, and that the Millenium had begun. I had fears that they might be deceived, and cautioned them to examine very closely, before they ventered too far. I returned to the place where I had been living, and informed them of what my parents had told me concerning the shakers as they were called. They said they thought my parents were very foolish in uniting with such a deluded people. They said their leader, Ann Lee, was an imposter and a witch; and strove hard to

discourage me from going to live with them, by telling me many bad and scandalous story, which they had heard about them. But I had a feeling to go and see them, and judge for myself; fully determined not to be deceived. In the latter part of January, 1813, I had an opportunity to come with my father and some others, that came to see the believers. When we arived there, we were received very kindly: this was saturday. We attended their publick meeting on the sabbath, which appeared very solem to me: their testimony was sharp and powerful against all sin; they plainly declared that no one could follow Christ in the regeneration, while living in any known sin; that we must confess our sins to God before some living witness, in order to find forgiveness; that a chaste virgin life was required of all that would come into the work of the Gospel; that the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life, were not of the Father, but of the world; that all wars and fightings must cease; that no hatred or revenge could abide in the soul that follows Christ. My Father returned home, after making a short visit, and left me with the believers. I was soon convinced that they were the people of God in very deed; as their doctrines appeared reasonable and consistant, and agreed with what Christ and his apostles taught while on earth; yea I was fully convinced that they walked in the selfdenying path which they taught others to walk. I accordingly confessed my sins honestly, as I had been taught, and set out with a full determination to take up my cross faithfully thro life, being in my 13th year. It is now more than 30 years since I first set out in this blessed way of salvation; and I can truly say that I never have had the least doubt of its being the only true way of God, which leads to life eternal. Tho I was young when I set out to forsake the world with all its allureing charms, I have had many

severe trials and temptations to pass thro: but in obedience to that anointed lead which is placed in zion for the protection of his people, I have been enabled, thro the goodness and mercy of God, to come off victorious thus far. And I can truly say that I feel thankful to God, that I was called to take up my cross and follow Christ while young; for it has proved salvation to my soul. I have been saved from the pollutions that are in the world thro lust; and it has yielded me that peace and solid rest which I would not exchange for ten thousand worlds like this. Yea, I verily believe that Christ has appeared the second time, without sin unto salvation; in and thro that chosen female whom we call Mother Ann Lee; and that the latter day of Glory, for which ten thousands prayed, has dawned upon earth, and the kingdom of Christ has begun, which will never have an end. And I feel confident, that all souls will yet acknowledge it, either in judgment or mercy. I feel in duty bound to write something concerning the present work of God, which is going on among believers. It commenced about six years ago: yea, there has been a heart searching work, a work of purging and cleansing the true Zion of God from all that is contrary to his righteous laws. I believe that the Lord is fully determined to have a pure church upon earth; that the subjects thereof may have the Gospel to administer to poor lost souls, when they come seeking the way of life and salvation. Yea, God has condescended, in his goodness and never ending mercy, to bestow upon us his blessings and rich treasures in a most remarkable and miraculous manner. Many have been blessed with the gift of visions, speaking with other tongues, prophesying the gift of healing, &c. We have been visited by the heavenly and angelic host: many mighty angels and purified spirits have assembled with us from time to time, filling our souls with the blessed power and gifts of God; and many have been blessed with the gift to behold them in open

vision, and converse freely with them. And many solem warnings and instructions and heavenly gifts have been administered to us thro inspired instruments chosen of God; yea, and many times my soul has been filled with such love and thankfulness for my privileges that my tongue could not express it. And I am confident this Gospel will yet be preached to all nations, kindreds, tongues and peoples, and that it will prove a savor of life to all that obey, and condemnation and misery to all who disobey and reject it. And I fully believe that the time is near at hand, when many will flock to zion to learn the word of the Lord. Come then, ye who desire to learn the way of life peace and righteousness, and be partakers of that life and salvation I can testify is treasured up in this church, which was founded by Christ Jesus, through the ministration of Mother Ann Lee and her faithful companions, who first preached the Gospel in America.

I freely bear witness to the truth of what I have here written, having done it in the fear of God, and in obedience to his divine will.

Thomas Stebbins.

Enfield, Connecticut, Dec. 23d 1843.

Enfield Conn. Dec. 19th, 1843.

A Declaration of Timothy Terry.

I was born in Enfield, Connecticut, April 28th, 1790.
My Parents names were David and Abagail Terry. They united with the society of believers in this place when I was about 1 year old. And they taught me, when young, the principles of purity: that I must abstain from every thing that was wicked and offensive to God; that I must be strictly obedient to the commands of God, and do as they taught me; and if I did any thing that was wicked, I must confess it to God before a living witness. This I did, as well as I knew how, and received faith in the pure testimony of the gospel, while young; which has proved a great blessing to me; for it has saved me from sin: whereas, if I had grown in the way and practice of the world, I should doubtless have run in by and forbidden paths. And I truly feel thankful for my privilege of being brought up in the pure principles of the gospel of Christ; yea, and I feel thankful to my good Elders and Brethren and Sisters, that have gone before me, and have kept the way of God for me. And now it is my determination, to be faithful to keep the way of God for other souls that may come after me. I have had many trials to pass through, and have seen many fall on the right hand and on the left, who would not endure the cross for the sake of salvation, but loved their own ways. But thanks be to God, that I have been able to keep the faith, thus far. And I can say with boldness, and confidence, that I have not seen a day, for more than forty years, that I would exchange my privilege in the blessed way of God, for all the pleasures of the carnal mind, or the treasures of Egypt. And I feel willing to spend and be spent, and to devote all my time and talents to do the will of God, according to

the best of my abilities. And I believe that our ever blesed Mother Ann was called and anointed of God to preach the everlasting gospel of peace and full salvation; to poor fallen man, and to be a spiritual Mother to all the children of the new creation; and in obedience to her Lord, to usher in the new and living way in this latter day; and that the second appearing of Christ or of the holy anointing was manifested in her to finish the work of redemption, and set up a kingdom that never ~~with~~ will have an end: which kingdom has come, by means of the second appearing of Christ manifested in the flesh, to destroy the works of the devil, or his ~~appearance~~ appearance the second time without sin unto salvation. I ever mean to so walk as to be owned by Christ and Mother, and I feel thankful that I am counted worthy to be numbered with their faithful children.

As to the late manifestation from the spiritual world, it has been marvelous in purging out evil and preparing the minds of the people for a further increase, especially the young and rising generation, who must shortly have the burden to bear, ~~to~~ and to stand as pillers in the house of God. I truly feel exceeding thankful for the glorious work ~~who~~ of the Lord, which has been going on for 5 or 6 years past; for it has yielded me heavenly joy and comfort from time to time through scenes of heavy tribulation. Yea, I will give thanks to God my Heavenly Father, for the rich heavenly Presents, that I have received from the holy Angels and ministering Spirits, in Heaven. I am determined to walk so careful watchful and prayerful, from day to day that I can always be under the protection of my Heavenly Father, through time here below. And when I enter the spiritual world O may I be so faithful that I can be received and owned, by all the angelic Host in Heaven, and praise God with them in heavenly love and thanksgiving, to the giver of all good,

for my redemption from all sin.

The foregoing is my unshaken faith, which I am ~~will~~ willing to own before all men.

Timothy Terry

A few words which a holy Angel of Comfort, requested to be written here. Friday Dec 22nd, 1843.

O most holy one of your Mother, listen attentively to what I will relate to you at this time. Be cheerful says your blessed Mother Ann, and wipe the tears from your eyes; for think ye that I do know what heavy burdens and trials you have to pass through. And now I have sent my pretty Angel, and Messenger, to help comfort and strengthen you both soul and body. Ye are my beloved child, in whom I place my trust and put great confidence in. So be ye encouraged to go on your way rejoicing in the God of your salvation, and never fear but what ye will receive help from me, and from all the good Spirits. yea, my soul feels delighted, with the meek humble, and careful still spirit which you daily possess; and for it ye are greatly noticed by me, and by all the heavenly Host. You are one that will have to feel much tribulation and sore persecution, but remember if ye are patient that ye will feel my hand upon you to cheer and comfort you through all trials. You shall feel the anointing Oil and Wine of joy and gladness, which I will pour upon your soul to refresh it, says your ever blessed Mother Ann.

Receive ye my love and blessing strength and comfort.

Farewell.

Instrument M S R.

Enfield Conn. Dec. 22nd 1843

Testimony of Richard T Willcox

According to request of the beloved lead in zion, I unite with my brethren and sisters, in endeavoring, though in a feeble way, to show my faith in a written form. I was born, Jan. 18th 1815 in the town of Foster, State of Rhode Island where I lived with my parents, David and Betsey Willcox, until I entered my 13th year; when my parents with 6 children moved to Enfield Conn, among the people known mostly abroad by the name of Shakers; where I have lived until the above date. Having had an experience of many things, too tedious to mention here, I shall only notice a few, relative to my faith &c. I was young, you will see by the above, when I came to live among this people, yet I soon received faith that it was the only true way on Earth, and that good believers were the happiest people dwelling here below. Perhaps some may say that I was so young, when I came from the world, and being shut up among the Shakers ever since, I could not obtain the necessary information to make one happy. Therefore I deem it my duty, to say a word on this important point. My father, for several years after he came among this people, lived with his own family on a farm belonging to the society, about 1 mile from the large families; which brought our place of residence nearer the worlds people than we were believers: so I had frequent opportunity of seeing both old and young, of the world as well as believers. I have several times been advised by the world, to give up the foolish notion, as they called it of being a Shaker. Perhaps you will like to know why I did not accept of their advice; so I will try to inform you. I examined all those that gave such wonderful advice; and I could see none but what would do things that I believed a good man would not do: which discouraged me from looking to such ones for help. I have seen some lose their union through

disbedience and leave believers: but I have never known one to beter their situation by the change; but I have known some made miserable and wretched. So by this time I am fully convinced that Christ has made his second appearance without sin unto salvation. And to be accounted worthy to be numbered with this company, I regard as the greatest blessing that can be enjoyed in this life. I never can be half thankful enough, for the unwearied pains my good Elders, brethren and sisters have taken, to help me along in this good way; but feel willing to repay, in any way I am able, what little I can, by makin them comfortable who are in the decline of life, and the same to all others, as far as my abilities will admit. I feel no risk in recommending the way to all inquirers, to be that which will satisfy every honest seeker after righteousness it is altogether lovely; yea, more to be desired than all things else that can be presented in a world like this. Riches and honor, and a great name among men, is that which will soon be buried in the dust; but a treasure in the gospel, is lasting, when all other things fail: such a treasure is comforting in this life; and such a one may be gained in this life, in a great degree, by proper attention to the instructions laid down by those who have marked the way before us; which was first made known by our beloved Savior Jesus Christ, secondly, by our blessed Mother Ann. In the sayings of these two may be found sufficient to direct any one aright; so that they shall have no just occasion of stumbleing; but may be able to do the will of God to his acceptance, both in time and eternity; this is my faith concerning the travil of the soul in this life; and this I feel disposed to maintain by works, though my natural life, which is the blood, should be required as the consequence. During the last five or six years there has been a great manifestation of the spirit; whereby the young and rising generation have received a great increase and much confirmation, by direct communication, through those who were inspired to view things in the spiritual world. And it has been my lot to be a sharer, in some degree, with my young brethren and sisters

in those precious things which our Heavenly Parents have been pleased to bestow on their ready children; for which I feel in duty bound always to possess a thankful heart.

Richard A Miller

Enfield Conn. Dec. 19th 1843.

The Testimony of Sophia Wood.

I was born in Town of Mansfield, State of Con Sept 24, 1791.

My Fathers name is Samuel Dudly Wood, and my Mothers name was Lois. I have had 6 Brothers and 6 Sisters. 4 of them died in Infancy, and 2 when about 8 years old. When I was about 2 years of age, my father Moved into York-State and Setled in Burlington. They were not rich, but Industrious. In my early days my Parents were not professors of religion; but taught their children the principles of it; to love and fear God. That there was a Heaven and a Hell; That if we were good, we would go to Heaven; but if we were wicked, we would go to Hell. It left an impression on my mind to do right. And when they told me about the sufferings of Christ, I thought, if I had lived on Earth when he did, I should have loved and feard him. The Spirit of God strove with me in my youthful days. At the of 12 the work of God broke out among the Presbeterians. Many were awakened, and cried for mercy. I then felt that I was a great Sinner, and was afraid that there was no mercy for me. I continued praying and reading the bible. My mind was led to read the 71 Psalm: in reading this I was comforted. I loved my Saviour and Christians were my company. Not having any one to lead me along, I soon lost that engoyment. But the Spirit of God strove with me; and I would form resolutions that I would do better; but would soon break them. One night in the Ball-Chamber, there came up a very heavy thunder shower; and a weight of conviction came rolling on my mind. I saw that I had slighted the invitations from God; and if If I should be kiled by lightning, I was afraid that I should go to Hell. O what horrow I felt! I promised God that if he would spare my life, I would do better. This conviction soon wore off: but from time to time the Spirit of God strove with me. When in my 17th year, my father left York-State, and moved back to Mansfield where he and my two sisters now reside. At the age of 18, I was called again; and I believed that If I did not except of offered mercy it would be too late. There was some awakening in the neighbourhood where I was living. I went to a prayermeeting; found some converts happy in God; their countenance shone with his Glory. I saw that I might have been happy; but I had greived the Spirit of God so often, that I was afraid there was no mercy for me. I wept aloud; but was determined, if there was mercy to seek untill I found it. This was on thursday Eve. I went home with a heavy heart, and continued seeking. What a weight I felt for sinning against light! but was in hopes that I should find forgiveness. while I was going to meeting, the sabath following I prayed if there was mercy for me, that I might it that day. I went in sat down and began to weep. The Methodists came round me, and asked me if I wanted that they

should pray for me. They knelt down and began to pray. I fell on my knees, and said. do pray for me. But O the distress my soul was in! I was afraid that there was no mercy for me, And felt that I was sinking. I was led to cry aloud for faith to beleive that God would forgive me. While praying I felt that Christ stood by me, and said Go in peace; thy Faith hath made the whole. My distress all left me; I arose on my feet, and shouted, Glory to God. Every thing around me shone with his beauty. This was the day I was 18 years old. I then felt that God had forgiven me, and made me free, And was willing to forgive all that would come unto him. My Father said do you think you have chose the good part that Mary chose? I said I have; and he was much affected. Not long after, my father, Mother, and two sisters experienced Religion. We could pray and rejoice together: I was very Happy. Soon after this I united with the Methodists, and was immersed. I loved my Saviour and many a time I rejoiced and praised God. Then I would wade throug deep tribulation for lost souls: Often have I poured out my soul in prayer to God, to have mercy on Sinners. At Campmeetings and other places of worship, I have had great manifestations from God. I viewed Sinners in the broad road to Hell. At such times I know that the Lord helped me: While I was under the power of God, I saw conviction roll upon the wicked. I could weep with those that wept, and rejoice with those that rejoiced. In trying scenes that I passed through I viewed Jesus to be my freind; and in times of temptation his spirit would stand by me and give me power to overcome. And from a spirit of sinking where I could only cry, Lord, help me, Lord help me; I could rejoice, and give Glory to God. About 7 years I remained with the Methodist Society. Then the Christians came, and preached that Christ was the Son of God, and not the Father. It was a new Idea; I had never heared much said about it. I searched the bible and saw it was correct. Reformations followed them, wherever they went; and in about 1 year I had my name taken off from the Methodist enrolment, and I united with the Christians. They were a united and a happy People; but the Evil Spirits soon found it out, and got in amongst them. They were divided into 2 parties one party said that they were led by the spirit of God, and the other party said it was the devil. I felt that the party that said they were led by the spirit of Gods was ahead of the others; And I confessed my sins before them as well as I knew how; and found a blessing in it: but for the want of being led along,

I lost in a measure that clearness I then felt. About 11 years before I came among the Believers, I dreamt of traveling, and saw a company of Christians; and I came up to them, their heads were down; (as most of professors were at that day.) I passed by them and met another company with their heads up, praising God. I rejoiced with them. When I awoke, I believed that I should see the company that I last met. In that day there was but little of the life and power of God in the different Churches. They were clashing eachother; and preaching had but little affect. I believed that If there was any true Church on Earth it must be composed of the faithful ones. I saw that mankind were lost in wickedness, and traveling the broad road to distruction without being sensible of their of their danger. At times I would cry to God, to have mercy on Sinners, and save them from ruin; then again would I feel the need of loving God with all my heart, and of being cleansed from all sin. How my spirit has groaned for deliverance! I promised God that I would take up every cross. And when I disobeyed, would come under condemnation; and in obedience, the blessings of God would rest upon me. I felt that I must devote my soul and body to the service of God. I saw that the souls of mortals were worth more than their bodies; and I was willing to do what good I could. In This frame of mind I was shown the situation of the Indians; that there was a great work amongst them. At first I was unwilling to hazard my life among so barbarous a Nation. This scripture would come to me: He that seeks to save his life, shall loose it. I said; can I go and leave the People that I have been brought up with, my relation and native land? I was unwilling. Then this Chripture would come with weight: He that will not forsake father and Mother, Wife and Children, Houses and Lands and his own life also, cannot be my desiple. This brought me into great tribulation. I had promised, God, that I would take up every cross: but when It was showed to me, I was ready to fall back. I cried to God to help me. I dreampt that I was sentensed to be put to death in 3 days: And there were those there that knew that I was inocent, but never opened their mouths. I said, thos that stand neuter are no freinds at all. According to the law I must be put to Death: but God can overule it. I awoke, and saw that I was the one that stood neuter. O the distress my soul was in! I had viewed the Indians in as lost states without the knowledge of the Saviour, and was unwilling to go and help them. I cannot describe the distress my soul was in. I cried to God to have mercy on me, and give me strength to do his will. I could see no way to be saved only to go, and spend my time and tallents amongst them. I said I cannot go, unless thy spirit go with me, and help me. The Lord said I will go with

you and teach you what to say. I could say no more but sunk in submision to his will; and when I deviated, I would be in great distress, and could only cry to God to have mercy on me, and help me take up my cross. The strugle was great; but the Lord strengthened me. I felt determined to obey God at the expence of all things. I left my fathers house, bid them farewell; not expecting to return, untill I had been amongst the Indians, (If ever)

These words I wrote, when I expected to go among the Indian Tribes.

1, Farewell, my freinds and brethren all,
Upon poor Sinners I must call;
And bid for farewell to freinds most dear;
My cross take up, go in Gods in fear.

2, Must leave my Native land and place,
And go into the Wilderness;
I must obey, or cannot see
A place in Heaven prepared for me.

3, To the Savages I'm called to go,
And tell them that Christs blood did flow;
To wash away their guilt and sin;
The Savages must be brought in.

4, The cross is great; and I do find
My heart unwilling, not inclined
To leave my home for distant lands;
My light hold up, as God commands.

5, Sometimes I see my way so clear,
Doubts are removed, I have no fear:
The worth of souls lies near my heart;
O, shall I ever with them part?

6, My freinds youse near twine round my heart;
I'm loth to leave you, or to part:
But God doth call; his voice I must
Obey and in him ever trust.

7, O dont think hard; but pray for me,
That God would ever with me be.
And If we meet on earth no more,
O may we meet on Canaans shore.

In this situation of mind I came to see the Shakers: (It was in Dec, 1828.) I stayed to Samuel Hazars all night. Elder Joshua and William Burnum came to see me. We had a free good visit. I asked them a number of questions, which they readily answered, and proved by the Bible. I considered that an Idea which could not be proved by the Bible, was not correct. The next day I went to the meeting-house: And as they, moved along and stood in ranks, and began to sing, they appeared like birds a singing to their Maker. I saw that they were ahead of me: but thought that I should come into the same liberty, by taking up every cross. Elder Joshua preached. I saw that the Testimony that he bore, would awake the dead; while other preaching would do but little. In the afternoon Meeting, William said, you cannot get to us, without taking up the same cross: but you may unite, as

for as you can. They were rejoycing and shouting aloud; And my enjoyment was growing less. After Meeting the Elders came to see me. They said that this was the final and last call to mans; and if they did not accept of it, they would be lost. I said, I know your are happy, And are ahead of me. They said, why not come into the same work? I said, do you think that God will put a cross upon one, and then take it off? I said I do not. Philip said, Abraham was called to offer up Isaac; and God called to him, to stay his his hand. I said that was his work, and not mine. I have felt that I must go amongst the Indians, and do what good I could, or go to hell: I can see no other way to be saved. My heart was full; I said but little more. Elder Joshua said For a woman of feeble constitution, to go, it is too hard: If any body has to go, I will go. He spoke with so much composure and tenderness, I could not refrain from weeping. The brethren left the room: and Eldress Agnes talked with me. I asked her some questions, which she answered to my satisfaction. The next day I went to the west family, found them happy. Richard said, if ye go to the land, to be justified, you are fallen from grace. I then see that the children of God are called to live a life of celibacy. Philip said I can see no way for you, but to come in to the same work. My light began to be small. It appeared to me like a candle burning in the sunshine. The next day, I went to see a small Family and found them rejoiceing. I said to go amongst the Indians, as I now feel, I should have but little to say. David said I know you have not. I then came back to Samuels. I spoke to Almira about their dress, and said, why not make it some different? She said, I am astonished be you so proud? Her words were weighty and powerful. I cried to God to have mercy on me. I saw that If this was the final and last call to man and I did not accept of it, I should be lost; And I was affraid If that I did not go amongst the Indians, I should be lost. This brought me into a streit place; and I fell on my knees, and prayed to God, to show me what to do, and save my soul. I was afraid that there was such bondage among the Shakers, that If I united with them, I could not get away. In this struggle of mind, I came to a resolution, that I would confess my sins; and if I found the Shakers to be wrong, I could leave them. My distress of mind abated and I got up. Elderess Agnes came to see me; and I related to her the struggle that I felt. She said I do not know but you are called to go to England but it is best to get right first. She spoke with so much confidence and composure, that I believed it. I confesed my sins and felt united to Believers; but felt like a little child that wants to be led along. The next day went to Suffield. While I was at work, I came to Judgment; and my book was opened; I could read one leaf after another. Although there was a number to work with me, they knew nothing what I felt.

Things would come to my mind, that I had not confest. Now says the Devil, if you confess them, they will think that you are not honest, and will have no charity for you. This through me into great distress. I staid 5 weeks, Settled up, and came back to Enfield. This was in Jan. 22, 1829. While I was my way I wept. I felt that I was leaving all behind, to go to a people that I knew but little about. A wilderness behind; and what was before me I knew not. I was afraid the beleivers would have no union with me, because I wept so much. But how different was the reception! They said to me that they were to come to Zion weeping; and said that I had done well that I had come. I was comforted, and beleived that this was the company that I saw in my dream. I staged at the South Family a week, And then went to Samuels to live. My mind was in great labour. I saw that I must get hold of the faith of beleivers, or I could not stay. I dreampt that I saw people rising from the Earth to a higher place; but the attraction was so great, that some would fall back; And others, as they cleared themselves from the Earth, would be helped by those that had risen. I thought as I rose they reached down their hand, and took hold of mine, and helped me up; and I then helped others. I saw in this dream, that the attraction to the Earth and to oneanother, if not risen out of, and overcome, would lead souls to distruction. The work began to look great, that I had set out in. I prayed to God, to give me strength to go forward, and help me along. I asked Elder Joshua to relate to me his Vision. He said it would not do to give me too strong meat. I said I am perishing for the want of it. He then told me he saw Christ and Mother. And the Saviour said, that he had been in the world, and preached Salvation, and suffered; but the way has been lost; And I have, (pointing to Mother) made my second appearance in her. But there are many that do not beleive it. Mother said, I have bourn this testimony, and have gone through with my sufferings on Earth, and have sit down with Christ on the throne. Many more things he stated concerning his vision; which was a help to me. I struggled hard, to beleive that Christ had come the second time; and soon, through faith, did beleive he had made his second appearance through Mother, Ann Lee: And from that time to this I have not doubted it. I could then beleive the prophesies about the work that should take place in the latter day: That this is the little stone that was cut out of the Mountain, without hands, and should cover the whole Earth. I can see, all the way along, that God by his Spirit strove with me, to break me off from the transitory things of time and sense, and wean me from this world, I am thankful that he has thus far helped me; And now has called me into a

work that will stain the pride of all flesh. What work can be greater? I know not any. Neither do I look for any. I fully beleive that Christ has made his second appearance through a woman for the full and final redemption of his people. The Testimony that she bore, clearly points out the loss of Man, and what he must do to be saved. That we must confess our sins one by one, as we have committed them; And be led along like children; And learn the way of God. That we must be subject to our Annointed Head, and do as we are taught; And keep the Orders that are given for our protection. And in coming up to this I have found great comfort. I can keep myself in the love of God as he has commanded. The Lord hath said that his People should be satisfied with his goodness; and so it is, I feel given up to God, to do his will; and his love satisfies me from day to day. In the late manifestation I have felt that God was in earnest with his people, in purging, purifying, and in cleansing his children; that they may be prepared to help Souls that will be called into this cross bearing way. Yea, the time is not far distant, when our Heavenly Parents will sound the Gospel Trumpet, to call the Nations; to embrace the Testimony That Mother and the Elders preached when on earth. No way is given whereby Mortals can be saved, only the way of the cross into which they must come, by honestly confessing their sins to God before his witnesses. and in doing this, they will feel their union to God, and Holy Mother Wisdom, and to our Heavenly Saviour and Blessed Mother Ann, and the Heavenly Hosts of Angels and purified Spirits. O what a relation, The People of God enjoy! It is worth giving up all for. And if we do give up all we shall be Obedient Children of the Heavenly Lamb and Bride. I am thankful for the many Blessings And beutiful gifts That I have had, And the rich presents that I have received from our Heavenly Parents And Holy Angels And from the Glorified Spirits And also for the healing Power of God.

1, When 14 years around had rolled,
I was convicted for my Soul.
My Saviour then did hear me pray:
For my relief did come that day.

2, When trying scenes did roll along
The Saviour then did help me on,
And led me here, to bear my cross,
My sins confess rise from my loss.

3, The Trumpet thus, Mother did sound;
I then did come, on Shaker ground.
When I was 37, years of age,
A battle then I did engage.

4, This is the war I'm engaged in,
To slay my foe, the man of sin;
And with my weapons I do fight
Believing still I'm doing right.

5 Now 15, years is almost fled,
Sins I've been rising from the dead;
An I can say unto you all,
This is the last and final call.

Sophia Woods

Testimony of Mary C Wright. Enfield Conn Dec 13th 1843.

I was born in Portsmouth, Newhampshire, August the 2nd 1793. My Parents Names were Samuel and Martha Shaw. My Father died, when I was 7 years old. My Mother taught me that Christ came into this world, to suffer and die for sinners: but I did not know what it meant, to be a sinner, as I could not bear to be a sinner. She likewise taught me, that if I would repent of my sins, and be good, I should go to Heaven. She often would relate over to me the sufferings of Christ. I thought if I had been on earth when he was, I would not have united with the cruel Jews in putting him to death. This caused me many serious reflections, from time to time, concerning the salvation of my soul. At the age of 12 I often retired alone to pray to my Heavenly Father in the best manner that I could, that he would have mercy on me, and forgive me of my sins. As my Mother taught me, that every sin that I had committed, would open his wounds afresh, this would cause me painful reflections. Then my convictions would cease, for a short time, as I could find no way to escape sinning, some way or other, either in thought, word or action. Then tribulation would return more powerful, to think that I should sin against such a good being as God, when he sent his only Son into the world, to die such a cruel death, to save sinners. This would almost leave me to despair of ever being saved from sin. Then I would make promises to the Lord, that I would try to live a different life. I thought if I could be permitted to enter in at the inside of the door of Heaven, after death, I should be saved: for I could not bear the thought of eternal banishment from God and heaven, and of going to hell, and burning in fire and brimstone forever and ever. But all this was kept to myself: for if I had escressed my feelings to my natural kindred, they perhaps would have thought that I was deluded; for my natural turn of mind was very lively. I often thought that my most besetting sin was laughing. At the age of 15 I found that my feelings I could no longer secreet. I then thought that I had met with a change of heart; and felt it my duty to go forward, and unite with the Christian Baptist; and was received into the church, and was baptised by immertion. I con-

tinued with them in good standing untill the age of 22 I then changed my residence, and went to boston, and became acquainted with the presbyterians, and was invited to attend their meetings. Finally I consented. I found them to be very popular. I then begun to think that religion did not consist in dress; as my dress formerly had been very plain. I then began to unite with them in dress, as I thought that I could enjoy myself quite as well as I did in my fomer dress; but soon found the enjoyment that I once received, did then begin to cease. This caused me many struggles of soul, to think that I had lost that enjoyment I once received, never to find it again; this led me to think that I had sinned against the Holy Ghost, and there would be no mercy for me in this world nor in the world to come. But I soon found that it would not do to give away to such feelings; so I tried to banish them from my mind as much as I posibly could, and do the best that I could in my situation, as I found there was no way to be saved from sin. At the age of 29 I was married to Andrew Wright, who was formerly a printer at North Hampton. A few years after I began to see that I had not lived up to the requirements of the gospel, as I ought to have done. This brought keen reflections; but I kept it to myself. At last, I thought I should like to go and visit the presbyterian Minister. I then thought that I would mention it to Andrew. He advised me to go. Accordingly I went, and gave him an understanding how my mind had been led. He gave me an invitation to come foward, and unite with the Church: he thought it was my duty. Finally I went foward and united with them; and still was not satisfied that I had attained to ~~that~~ what my mind was then in pursuit of; that was salvation from sin. 1832 A young woman came to our house, to board, one evening; and we conversed upon the subject of religion. She then told me that she had been on a visit, to see the believers at Canterbury. Then I was led to enquire what their principles were. She told me that they believed that Christ had made his second appearing in Mother Ann Lee, and that they did not marry. This struck my mind powerfully. I sensibly felt that they had attained to that that I had not. This led me to a feeling to go and visit them. Finally I mentioned it to Andrew; but he appeared not to be willing at first, although he did not say any thing against them. But my mind was strongly led to go; finally he gave his consent. I went and made my

first visit, in Oct 1832; The second was in Oct 1833. This makes it 11 years since I first heard the gospel preached in its purity. I then received faith in their testimony, and really believed they were the true Church of Christ, that according to prophecy, would come forth in the latter day; where all should know the Lord, from the least to the greatest. I found them a very happy people. We read in the bible that the Lord's people were a peculiar people, zealous of good works. When they came to make me acquainted of their principles, I thought that they were correct as to their views respecting the work of salvation; that such a life ought to be lived by the true followers of Christ; for he said, when he was upon earth, that his kingdom was not of this world. And those that set out to follow him, must be willing to forsake fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, houses and lands and their own life also, or they could not be his desciples. Christ taught his desciples to overcome, as he had overcome. But this could not be a fully accomplished, till he came the second time (which was in the spirit,) without sin unto salvation, to create a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. As the order of the new creation could not be complete without a perfect parentage, no more than that of the old creation. So our blessed Mother Ann was the chosen female, that received the same anointing power that Christ posed, when he was upon earth. She took up a full and final cross against all the demands of a carnal mind. Her testimony went to the very debth of mans loss; and now a full and free salvation is offered to all the sons and daughters of the first Adam. For the time will come, when all nations will call her blessed, for her works sake. In the beginning man was made upright. And had they continued in that order in which they were placed, they would have been the flowers of heaven and the glory of paradise. But by their disobedience, they fell from the order in which they were created to stand. As the female took an active share in the work of leading into transgression, now she is to be a helper in leading the human race out of it. And it is by an honest confession of every known sin, one by one as they have committed them, before the faithful witnesses of God, with a determination to forsake them forever; and short of this they never can be justified. But to think of coming out from the world and leaving my natural kindred, was a painful thought. But I could see no other way for me to find salvation from all sin; for I believed the call of God

was to me, to come out from the world, and follow Christ through evil report as well as the good report. And if I rejected this call, I then believed that I never should have another in this world nor in the world to come. I then felt, like the young man, when he asked what he should do to gain eternal life: who was then told that he must go and sell all that he had, and give it to the poor. I began to feel very sorrowful: I thought if I could get round the cross, and secreet my feelings, I should be glad to do it: but the impression was, this is the way: walk ye in it. Finally I mentioned it to Andrew, that I could see no other way for me, only to go and unite with that people; as I believed that was the only true Church upon earth. He thought it very strange, that I should be so misled; he thought I must be crazy or deluded. I told him I could not see how that could be, when I could attend to the duties of my family, as well as ever I had done. For this he could not fault me. Finally he gave his consent to have me go on trial, and perhaps I should get dissatisfied, and want to return. But I did not believe that I should ever want to return to the world again, were I to be once received in among Believers. Finally he wrote a written agreement. This caused me to shrink from the cross; for I felt as though I could not bear to leave my natural kindred behind. Then I give up escpecting ever to see the believers again in this life: but my faith I could not get red of, and that was my torment. Although I was prayed for by my christian friends, and counselled with, to give up my faith; I found no way to get red of it; and my determination was, to live as good a life as I could in my situation. In the year 1834 we moved from Boston to South Hadley. I then received a letter of recomend from the church in Boston to the church in south Hadley, and was there received into the church. In the year 1835 I heard that the believers had come to South Hadley, to Israel Lyman's, to hold their meetings. When I heard of it, I felt as though I must go and visit them; but not being much acquainted with Israel's family, I did not know how I should bring it about. But however, Ruth Kellogg one of the neighbors, came to enquire about my visit to Canterbury. I then related it over to her, I saw that she felt very friendly towards them; and she invited me to go to one of their meetings. I asked Andrew if I had better go. He left it with me, to do as I thought best about it. *

* So I went, one evening, and heard the preaching of Elder Joshua Benett; as he was the one that took the lead of the meeting. He spoke from these words, about the sheet that was let down from heaven with all manner of four footed beast and creeping things in it. And Peter was told to slay and eat; but he wanted to have his own way about it, and said, not so Lord. This had been the case with me: I wanted to have some other way to go to heaven; but I soon found that I had got to come to the cross, or never find salvation from sin. And soon as there was convenient opportunity, I united with them as far as I could. I then came forward, and made an honest confession of every known sin, one by one, which I had committed from my childhood up to the present day, before the faithful witnesses of God. I was 42 years of age when I commenced this work; and have been very thankful that I was called out from a world of sin and woe. Now rather than to give up my faith, I had rather give up my body as a living sacrifice, if called so to do, for I hold nothing too dear to sacrifice for the sake of salvation from all sin. This will prove a great salvation to all who will come in to the work, and endure to the end.

As to the faith which I have in the late manifestation to God's chosen people on earth, it is very strong. For I have received many beautiful comforting gifts, that have strengthened and helpt me to keep my faith, and abide with the people of God. yea, I do truly feel thankful, from day to day, that this glorious work commenced, whereby Zion could be purged and purified from every thing that is offensive in the sight of God.

My Heavenly Father hath not been sparing with his holy Gifts and presents; but hath sent them in abundance, by his holy Angels and ministering Spirits, to his little chosen few on earth, to comfort and refresh their thirsty souls in times of heavy tribulation.

Thus saith an Angel of Love. Belaved one of your blessed Mother Ann, hearken a little while to the voice of a well wisher to you, and one that knew of your trials when you were in the world. yea, I did assist you many times, and did help you to come into the blessed work of salvation from all sin. I have been with you ever since you obeyed the precious faith of the gospel, and still will, whilst you remain upon earth. So be ye encouraged, comforted and happy;

press on in the good way of God, and ever think, when ye feel cast down and are under heavy trials, that I your comforter stands close by you, pouring up your soul the healing balm of sweet comfort and consolation. I think that you have been quite a brave soldier for the cross of Christ, and have stood the test courageously and manfully, in the heavy trials through which you have passed. For be assured, beloved one of mine, I have truly known of all your trials, and have cheered your afflicted soul, and refreshed it, from time to time, with the healing balsam, which I will give you at this time.

Receive ye my love, my blessing, my strength and comfort to remain with you.

Farewell.

I was 43 years of age when I was gathered in amongst Believers; which was at Enfield Conn, South Family or gathering order; and I am now 50 years of age.

Mary B Wright.

SHAKER COLLECTION

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